



# MEASURING THE STATE OF DISASTER PHILANTHROPY | 2017

DATA TO DRIVE DECISIONS



## Executive Summary

Disasters and humanitarian crises affected millions of people globally in 2015. A massive earthquake struck Nepal in April, followed by aftershocks that hampered relief efforts and further increased the devastation. Floods inundated areas of India and Malawi. The number of refugees, asylum seekers, and internally displaced people rose to 65.3 million people.

In the United States, deadly storms and flooding affected South Carolina, Texas, and Oklahoma. The drought continued in California, contributing to wildfires. The Flint water crisis became full blown, with toxic levels of lead making tap water unsafe for residents.

Each year, the Center for Disaster Philanthropy and Foundation Center analyze global disaster-related funding from foundations, bilateral and multilateral donors, the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), corporations, and smaller donors who give through donor-advised funds and online platforms. We analyze this funding according to a taxonomy that classifies giving by type of disaster and disaster assistance strategy.

Key findings from our 2015 analysis:

- Drawing upon nine data sources, we documented \$23 billion in disaster-related giving in 2015.
- Grants awarded by 1,000 of the largest U.S. foundations totaled \$158.1 million. There were some considerable differences in the

distribution of contributions in 2015 compared with previous years. It is too early to determine whether this represents a new approach to disaster-related giving or is an anomaly.

- Overall funding decreased from the previous year when disaster-related contributions totaled \$225.7 million, due to large grants addressing the Ebola epidemic. However, more grants were distributed in 2015 by more funders.
- Funding for complex emergencies increased dramatically from previous years and represented a greater proportion of overall funding. Large U.S. foundations distributed \$26.6 million for complex emergencies (17 percent of overall funding), compared with \$7.7 million (3 percent) in 2014. As the Syrian war continued and millions of refugees fled to surrounding countries and Europe, foundations increased support for the humanitarian crisis.
- Epidemics were the highest-funded disaster type (\$32.6 million), with foundations continuing the support they gave in 2014 following the Ebola outbreak. In addition, \$16.9 million was distributed for earthquakes, which received the most number of grants (159 grants).
- Among disaster assistance strategies, response and relief efforts continued to receive the most funding (34 percent), though this proportion was far lower than in previous



years. Conversely, resilience, risk reduction, and mitigation represented a larger share of funding than in the past (17 percent, compared with 9 percent in both 2013 and 2014). In the aftermath of the Ebola outbreak, some funders made sizable investments to strengthen disaster risk management.

- Disaster preparedness (6 percent) and reconstruction and recovery (5 percent) continued to be underfunded areas of the disaster lifecycle.
- A review of Foundation Center’s broader database identified an additional \$119.7 million in funding by smaller foundations, public charities, and international foundations.
- Official development assistance by 29 government members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development’s Development Assistance Committee (DAC) totaled \$16.8 billion for disasters and humanitarian crises. Non-DAC government donors and multilateral organizations contributed an additional \$3.7 billion.
- FEMA distributed \$2.2 billion in grants and assistance for domestic disasters in 2015. The top recipient states of FEMA grants were California, Texas, and South Carolina.
- Based on available data, corporate giving programs committed at least \$50.1 million to disasters and humanitarian crises, as both cash and in-kind donations.

- Individual donors contributed \$15.8 million through donor-advised funds managed by Fidelity Charitable and \$2.9 million through donor-advised funds managed by Vanguard Charitable.
- Many individual donors also gave through online platforms like Network for Good and GlobalGiving. Network for Good helped direct at least \$2.2 million in donations for disasters and humanitarian crises through their giving portals, with \$1.7 million being donated for earthquakes. GlobalGiving raised \$7.7 million for disasters, supporting 213 projects by 167 organizations. GlobalGiving’s Nepal Earthquake Relief and Recovery Fund raised more than \$5 million.

Philanthropic funding for disasters and humanitarian crises is situated within a large ecosystem of global aid. While assistance from governments far surpasses funding from foundations, institutional philanthropy still plays an important role. For example, foundations can choose to fill funding gaps and support underfunded areas of the disaster lifecycle. Support for disaster risk reduction and preparedness can mitigate the impact of disasters, and many communities need sustained funding for the long road to recovery.

We hope this analysis will aid donors in considering how to maximize the impact of their disaster-related giving. To learn more about Measuring the State of Disaster Philanthropy, we invite you to visit our online tools at [disasterphilanthropy.foundationcenter.org](http://disasterphilanthropy.foundationcenter.org).

# Disaster Philanthropy in 2015

Major disasters and humanitarian crises affected millions of people globally in 2015. A massive earthquake struck Nepal in April, followed by aftershocks that hampered relief efforts and further increased the devastation. Floods inundated areas of India and Malawi. The number of refugees, asylum seekers, and internally displaced people rose to 65.3 million people.

In the United States, deadly storms and flooding affected South Carolina, Texas, and Oklahoma. The drought continued in California, contributing to wildfires. The Flint water crisis became full blown, with toxic levels of lead making tap water unsafe for residents.

What was the landscape of philanthropic giving for these and other disasters in 2015? We document foundation support and place it in context with other sources of global aid to provide the fullest possible financial picture of disaster-related funding.

We acknowledge that there are far more disaster contributions than what we currently document, and we invite donors and other data-gathering organizations to partner with us to include their giving data in our annual analysis: [disasterphilanthropy.foundationcenter.org/get-involved](http://disasterphilanthropy.foundationcenter.org/get-involved).

DATA SOURCES FOR 2015 ANALYSIS	DESCRIPTION
<b>FOUNDATION CENTER</b>	Comprehensive source of data on U.S. foundation giving with a growing database of global foundations; analysis is based on annual grants sets
<b>ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD) CREDITOR REPORTING SYSTEM</b>	Central database for humanitarian assistance from the 29 OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) member states
<b>UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS (UN OCHA) FINANCIAL TRACKING SERVICE</b>	Comprehensive source of real-time humanitarian aid contributions; to avoid double counting, we exclude contributions from DAC donors and U.S. foundations
<b>U.S. FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA)</b>	Detailed information from FEMA Hazard Mitigation, Public Assistance, Assistance to Firefighters, Fire Prevention & Safety, and SAFER grant awards
<b>U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOUNDATION CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP CENTER DISASTER CORPORATE AID TRACKER</b>	Key source of data on corporate giving for disasters
<b>GLOBALGIVING</b>	Contributions collected through the organization's online giving platform
<b>NETWORK FOR GOOD</b>	Aggregated data on disaster-designated contributions collected through its software platform
<b>VANGUARD CHARITABLE</b>	Aggregated data on contributions collected through donor-advised funds
<b>FIDELITY CHARITABLE</b>	Aggregated data on contributions collected through donor-advised funds

# Disaster Taxonomy

## DISASTER TYPES

### NATURAL DISASTER

Drought	Extreme Temperature	Storm
Earthquake/Tsunami	Flood	Volcano
Epidemic	Mass Movement	Wildfire

### COMPLEX HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCY

### MAN-MADE ACCIDENT

### GENERAL

## DISASTER ASSISTANCE STRATEGIES



RESILIENCE,  
RISK REDUCTION,  
AND MITIGATION



PREPAREDNESS



RESPONSE  
AND RELIEF

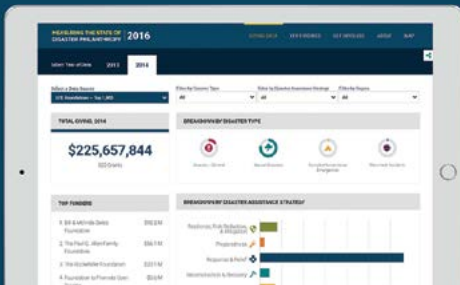


RECONSTRUCTION  
AND RECOVERY

## About This Project

Measuring the State of Disaster Philanthropy is an annual analysis of funding for global disasters and humanitarian crises. See these other tools to help inform disaster-related philanthropy:

### MEASURING THE STATE OF DISASTER PHILANTHROPY DASHBOARD



Download this research brief and interact with aggregated 2015 funding data  
[disasterphilanthropy.foundationcenter.org](http://disasterphilanthropy.foundationcenter.org)

### MEASURING THE STATE OF DISASTER PHILANTHROPY MAPPING PLATFORM



Dig deeper into grant- and project-level data, from 2011 to present  
[disasterphilanthropy.org/state-of-disaster-philanthropy-map](http://disasterphilanthropy.org/state-of-disaster-philanthropy-map)

### DISASTER PHILANTHROPY PLAYBOOK



Learn about the best ways to allocate resources for disasters  
[disasterplaybook.org](http://disasterplaybook.org)

For more information about this report, or to learn about how to increase the effectiveness of your philanthropic dollars, please contact [Regine.Webster@disasterphilanthropy.org](mailto:Regine.Webster@disasterphilanthropy.org).

# U.S. Foundations

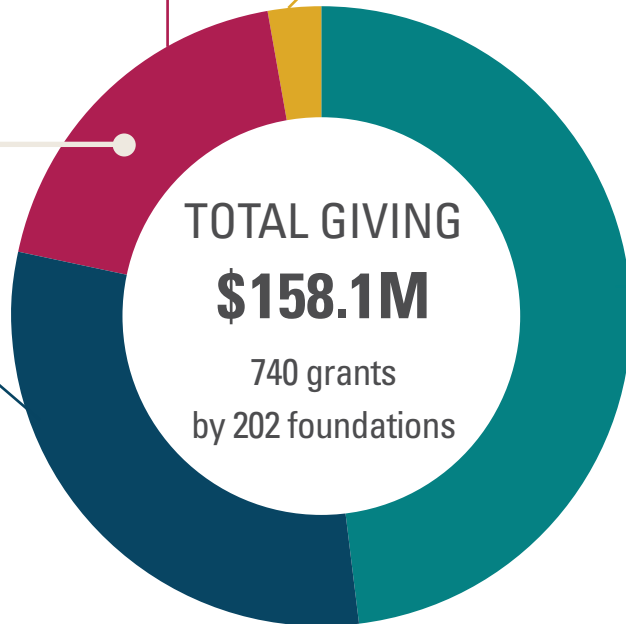
## FOUNDATION FUNDING BY DISASTER TYPE, 2015

**32%**  
DISASTERS—  
GENERAL  
\$51,289,117  
260 grants

**17%**  
COMPLEX HUMANITARIAN  
EMERGENCIES  
\$26,618,899  
79 grants

**3%**  
MAN-MADE  
ACCIDENTS  
\$4,300,000  
5 grants

**48%**  
NATURAL  
DISASTERS  
\$75,911,147  
396 grants



EPIDEMIC	\$32,579,717	55 grants
EARTHQUAKE	\$16,886,608	159 grants
FLOOD	\$ 8,042,006	54 grants
STORM	\$ 6,935,785	62 grants
DROUGHT	\$ 5,345,040	19 grants
NATURAL DISASTER—GENERAL	\$ 3,520,186	17 grants
WILDFIRE	\$ 1,715,555	25 grants
EXTREME TEMPERATURE	\$ 660,000	1 grant
MASS MOVEMENT	\$ 170,000	3 grants
VOLCANO	\$ 56,250	1 grant

Funding for complex emergencies increased 245 percent from \$7.7 million in 2014.

The Houston Endowment made a \$1.3 million grant to William Marsh Rice University to study the best way to protect Houston from the “catastrophic consequences of unmitigated hurricane flooding.”

Based on all grants of \$10,000 or more reported by 1,000 of the largest U.S. foundations.

## ADDITIONAL FUNDING

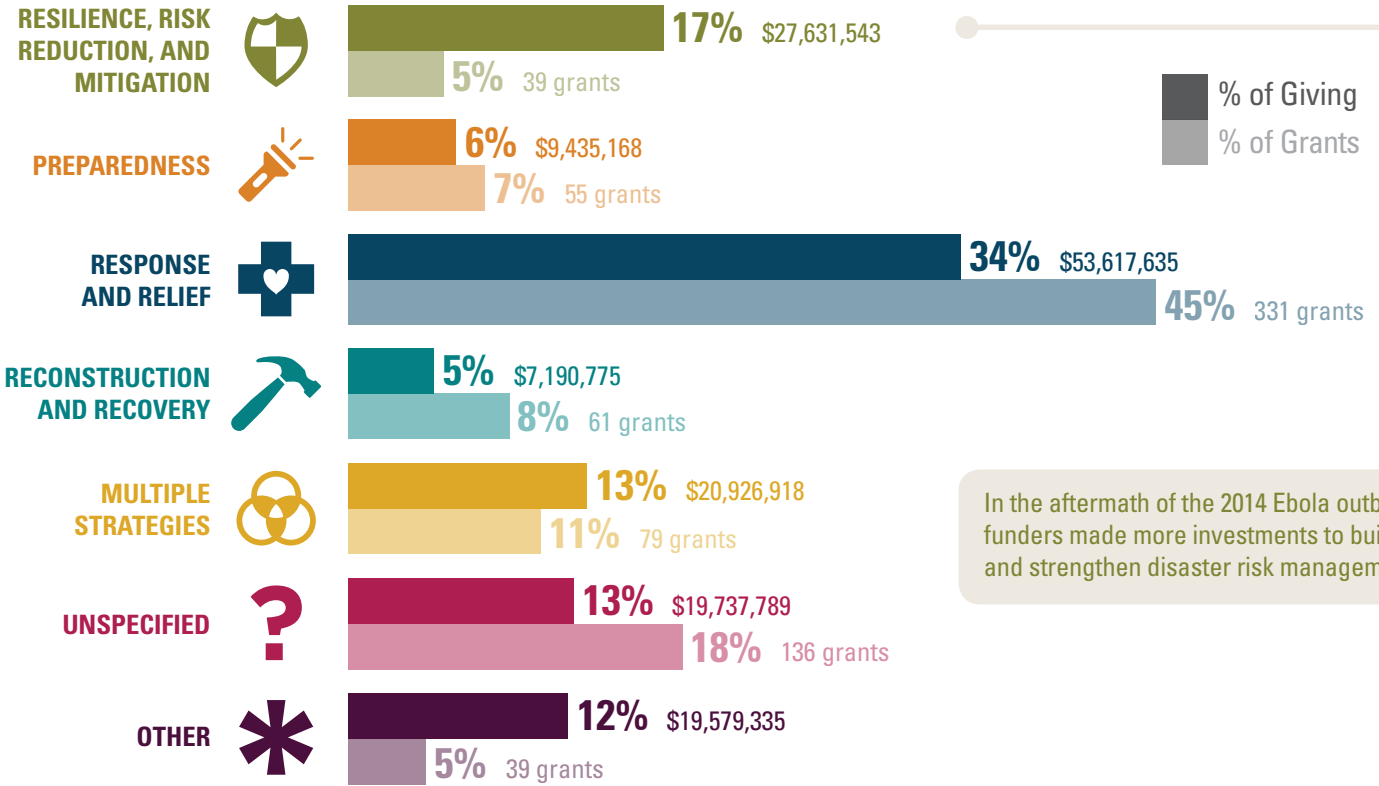
Foundation Center’s database has a growing number of grants from smaller foundations, public charities, and non-U.S. foundations. In 2015, these donors contributed an additional \$119.7 million in disaster-related funding through 850 grants.

For example, the International Paper Company Foundation, a corporate foundation in Memphis, TN, distributed \$750,000 to the American Red Cross for relief efforts for those impacted by the South Carolina floods. The Tides Foundation, a public charity in

San Francisco, CA, allocated 11 grants totaling \$817,500 to various organizations for Nepal earthquake relief efforts.

Internationally, the Stichting IKEA Foundation announced a \$42.2 million award to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees to make refugees and heavily stretched host communities more resilient in Burkina Faso and Ethiopia by supporting self-reliance initiatives, improving basic services, and fostering peaceful co-existence.

# FOUNDATION FUNDING BY DISASTER ASSISTANCE STRATEGY, 2015



In the aftermath of the 2014 Ebola outbreak, funders made more investments to build resilience and strengthen disaster risk management.



Coast Guard overflight of South Carolina flooding. Photo: Petty Officer 1st Class Stephen Lehmann

## TOP 10 FOUNDATION FUNDERS, 2015

1. Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	\$30,686,674	27 grants
2. Rockefeller Foundation	\$ 9,990,264	15 grants
3. Paul G. Allen Family Foundation	\$ 8,208,304	11 grants
4. UPS Foundation	\$ 7,887,686	83 grants
5. Conrad N. Hilton Foundation	\$ 6,858,500	15 grants
6. Margaret A. Cargill Foundation	\$ 5,894,113	12 grants
7. Oak Foundation	\$ 5,338,983	3 grants
8. Charles Stewart Mott Foundation	\$ 5,000,000	6 grants
9. Foundation to Promote Open Society	\$ 4,161,798	8 grants
10. Ford Foundation	\$ 3,920,000	15 grants

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Paul G. Allen Family Foundation continued funding for the Ebola outbreak, including clinical trials for Ebola treatments and strengthening Sierra Leone's public health systems.

Grantmaking strategies include disaster preparedness, response, and long-term recovery.

Grants addressed humanitarian aid, psychosocial support, and child protection for those impacted by the Syrian conflict.

## TOP 10 RECIPIENTS OF FOUNDATION FUNDING, 2015

1. American Red Cross National Headquarters	\$11,435,003	44 grants
2. ClinicalRM	\$10,711,943	2 grants
3. International Medical Corps	\$ 4,028,290	13 grants
4. City of Flint	\$ 4,000,000	1 grant
5. Asociacion Salvadorena de Ayuda Humanitaria	\$ 3,500,039	2 grants
6. Tulane Educational Fund	\$ 3,500,000	1 grant
7. Open Society Initiative for West Africa	\$ 3,005,836	1 grant
8. Nduna Foundation	\$ 3,000,000	1 grant
9. Partners in Health	\$ 2,900,000	1 grant
10. Mercy Corps	\$ 2,783,751	18 grants

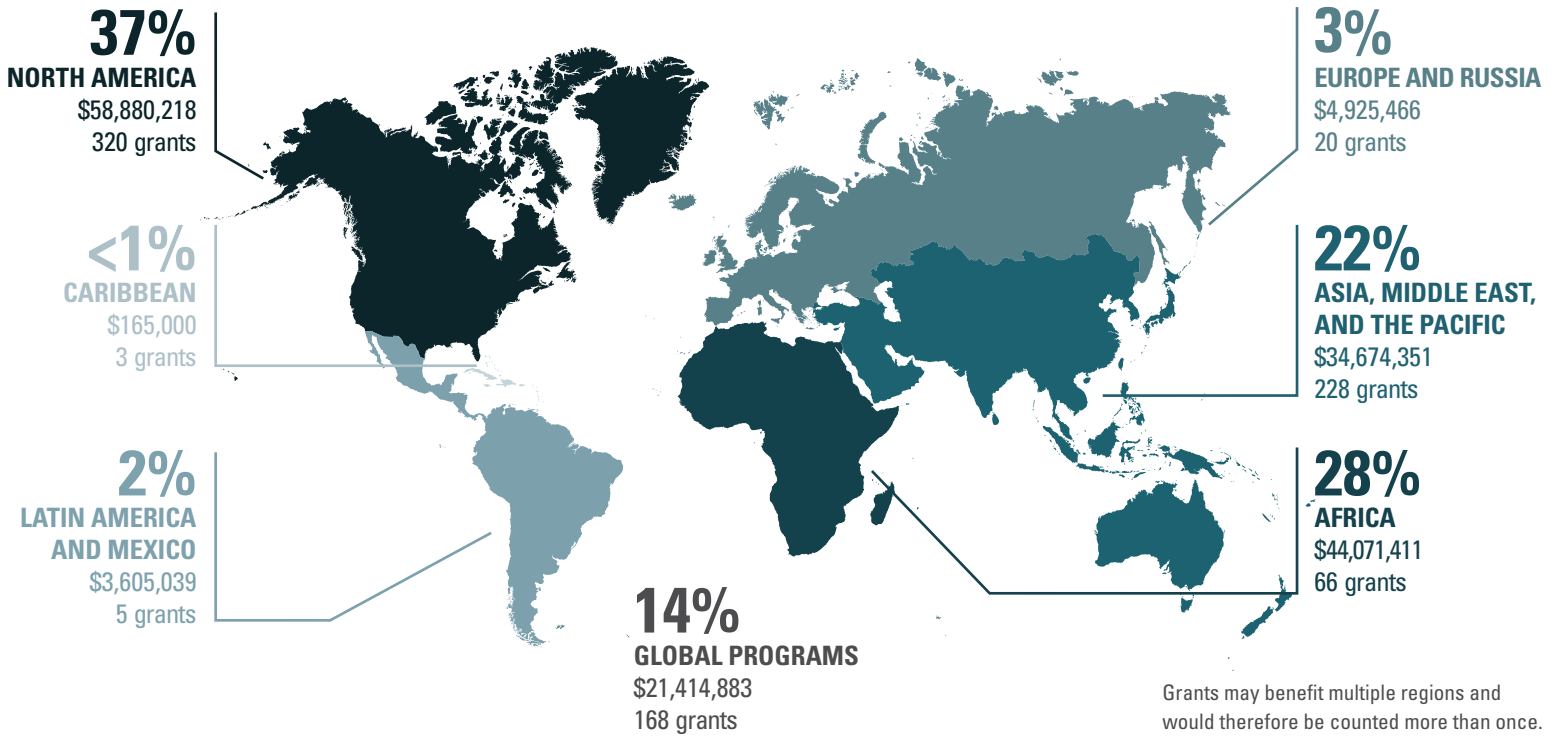
An additional 39 grants totaling \$6.2 million went to local chapters of the American Red Cross.

From the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation to purchase water from Detroit for Flint residents.

From the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to strengthen leadership capacity in the humanitarian and disaster risk management sectors.

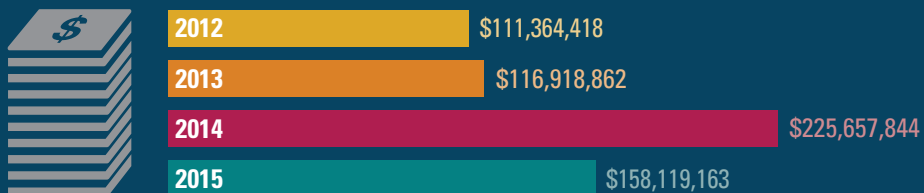


## FOUNDATION FUNDING TO REGIONS, 2015



## U.S. Foundation Funding Trends, 2012-2015

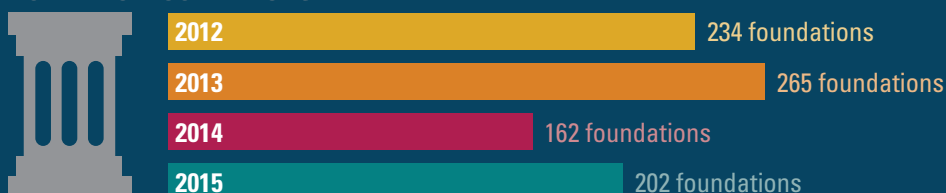
### TOTAL AMOUNT



### NUMBER OF GRANTS



### NUMBER OF FOUNDATIONS



# Other Data Sources

## OECD DAC DONORS, 2015

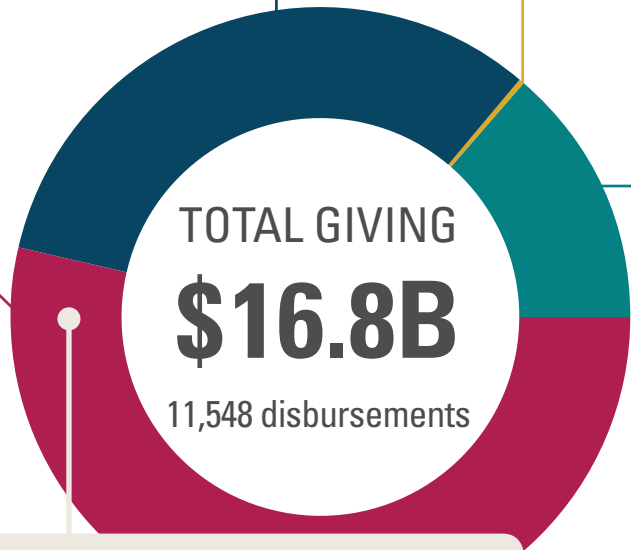
**54%**  
**COMPLEX HUMANITARIAN  
 EMERGENCIES**  
 \$9,056,817,883  
 4,201 disbursements

**32%**  
**DISASTERS-  
 GENERAL**  
 \$5,456,688,171  
 5,453 disbursements

**<0.1%**  
**MAN-MADE  
 ACCIDENTS**  
 \$2,003,990  
 10 disbursements

**14%**  
**NATURAL  
 DISASTERS**  
 \$2,280,073,658  
 1,884 disbursements

Funding to address the Ebola outbreak continued in 2015.



Syria and South Sudan received the most funding.

<b>EPIDEMIC</b>	\$ 1,337,956,201	603 disbursements
<b>EARTHQUAKE</b>	\$ 283,511,069	326 disbursements
<b>FLOOD</b>	\$ 233,488,931	307 disbursements
<b>STORM</b>	\$ 172,349,409	207 disbursements
<b>NATURAL DISASTER-GENERAL</b>	\$ 153,639,189	264 disbursements
<b>DROUGHT</b>	\$ 84,913,869	112 disbursements
<b>VOLCANO</b>	\$ 7,878,724	27 disbursements
<b>MASS MOVEMENT</b>	\$ 4,534,313	19 disbursements
<b>WILDFIRE</b>	\$ 1,711,169	18 disbursements
<b>EXTREME TEMPERATURE</b>	\$ 90,784	1 disbursement

## UN OCHA, NON-DAC DONORS, 2015

**90%**  
**COMPLEX HUMANITARIAN  
 EMERGENCIES**  
 \$3,366,940,503  
 1,483 contributions

**3%**  
**DISASTERS-  
 GENERAL**  
 \$97,937,560  
 220 contributions

**<0.1%**  
**MAN-MADE  
 ACCIDENTS**  
 \$314,960  
 2 contributions

**7%**  
**NATURAL  
 DISASTERS**  
 \$274,320,494  
 328 contributions



The United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait were the top donors.

### Top Five Emergencies, 2015

1. Yemen	\$ 1,136,187,256
2. Syrian Arab Republic	\$ 1,045,476,137
3. Republic Of South Sudan	\$ 216,527,305
4. Nepal Earthquake	\$ 173,929,867
5. Occupied Palestinian Territory	\$ 127,359,712



Makeshift shelter in the aftermath of a cyclone that struck Myanmar.  
Photo: ©European Union/ECHO/Pierre Prakash

## FEMA



<b>WILDFIRE</b>	<b>\$1,062,174,296</b>	<b>  2,670 grants</b>
<b>STORM</b>	<b>\$ 804,425,621</b>	<b>  3,643 grants</b>
<b>FLOOD</b>	<b>\$ 293,637,775</b>	<b>  615 grants</b>
<b>EXTREME TEMPERATURE</b>	<b>\$ 84,451,502</b>	<b>  273 grants</b>

The top recipient states of FEMA grants were California, Texas, and South Carolina.

FEMA and the Federal Government cannot vouch for the data or analyses derived from these data after the data have been retrieved from the Agency's websites.

## DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS

**FIDELITY CHARITABLE**  
**\$15.8M** | 7,677 grants

\$8.3 million went toward Nepal earthquake.

\$6.3 million was for refugee relief.

**VANGUARD CHARITABLE**  
**\$2.9M** | 673 grants

\$1.4 million went toward earthquakes.

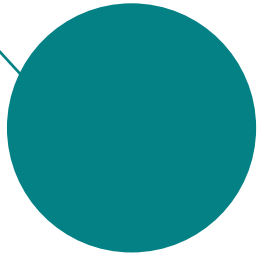
\$776,585 was for complex humanitarian emergencies.

## CORPORATE GIVING PROGRAMS

AT LEAST **\$50.1M** | 165 pledges

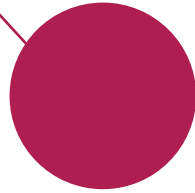
### NEPAL EARTHQUAKE

\$26,706,015  
138 pledges



### REFUGEE CRISIS

\$15,871,973  
12 pledges



### EBOLA EPIDEMIC

\$4,735,605  
8 pledges



### SOUTH CAROLINA FLOODING

\$1,815,000  
32 pledges



### TEXAS FLOODING

\$1,015,000  
17 pledges



Includes cash and in-kind gifts that were assigned a monetary value

An additional 42 pledges were made for in-kind aid without a monetary value



T-Mobile waived fees for texts and calls to/from Nepal.



Sealed Air Corporation Contributions Program donated heavy duty recycled plastic films for shelter and construction tarps to the American Red Cross for South Carolina flooding relief.

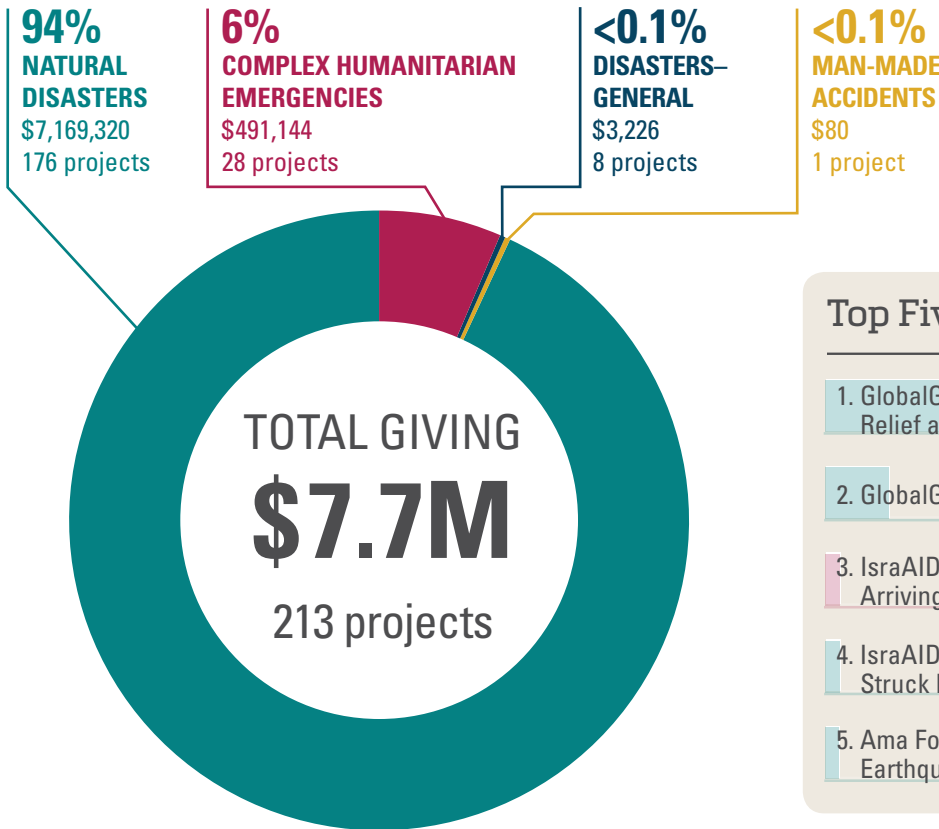


FedEx Corporation committed transportation support to deliver medical aid to Nepal.

Yesriba feeds her two-year-old Seid high-nutrient peanut paste (known as plumpy nut or RUTF).  
Photo: Kyle Degraw/Save the Children



## GLOBALGIVING



### Top Five Projects, 2015

1. GlobalGiving: Nepal Earthquake Relief and Recovery Fund	\$	5,181,106
2. GlobalGiving: Chennai Flood Relief Fund	\$	458,840
3. IsraAID: Emergency Relief for Refugees Arriving in Europe	\$	104,542
4. IsraAID: Emergency Relief for Earthquake-Struck Nepal	\$	103,107
5. Ama Foundation: Ama Ghar Community Earthquake Relief	\$	96,285

## NETWORK FOR GOOD

AT LEAST **\$2.2M** | 17,920 donations

Donations for disasters tended to cluster around major events, though gifts to address complex emergencies were more dispersed.



**EARTHQUAKE**

**\$1,650,474 | 13,245 donations**



**REFUGEE CRISIS**

**\$335,050 | 2,326 donations**

Network for Good altered its process for identifying disaster-related donations. While this method likely undercounts the amount of disaster aid, it allows for greater analysis of giving patterns. Comparison of total giving with previous years is not recommended.



Myanmar/Burma reeling under the double impact of floods and cyclone.  
Photo: ©European Union/ECHO/Pierre Prakash

## Contributors

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